

Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property

Tonawanda, New York

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Buffalo District
May 2019

Building Strong[®]

Cleanup Update

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is excited to announce the progress being made to address the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)-related materials located within the Town of Tonawanda Landfill. The Corps of Engineers signed a record of decision to clean up radionuclide (radium-226, thorium-230, uranium-234, uranium-235, and uranium-238) contamination in soils in the Landfill Operable Unit (OU) of the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property, and dispose of them off-site at a licensed/permitted disposal facility. The cleanup goals are set so that a recreational user will have unrestricted use of the site, with respect to the FUSRAP-related contamination, once the work is complete.

At the end of 2018, the Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, awarded two contracts to complete the cleanup of FUSRAP-contaminated soils at the Landfill OU. A remedial action contract was awarded to Plexus Scientific Corporation of Alexandria, Virginia, to remove FUSRAP materials from the Landfill OU to a depth of five feet below ground surface, as specified in the 2017 record of decision, and package them for disposal. A second contract was awarded to Environmental Rail Solutions of Monmouth Beach, New Jersey, to transport and dispose of the excavated FUSRAP materials at a permitted disposal facility outside of New York State.

To ensure a safe and successful project, the Corps of Engineers is working with the contractor to finalize work plans for the project. The work plans will guide the cleanup and verify it is performed in a manner that is protective of the health and safety of site workers, the local community, and the environment. The contractor will follow these work plans during mobilization, cleanup, and restoration of the Landfill OU. These plans were reviewed extensively by the Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, as well as the City of Tonawanda and Town of Tonawanda officials.

Field work is expected to begin at the end of May 2019. Work will take place Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., using excavators, loaders, and trucks. Residents nearby will hear normal construction-type sounds during the cleanup. Protective measures will include air monitoring around the work zone, and dust suppression.

The excavated FUSRAP-contaminated material will be placed in intermodal containers which will be sealed, and prepared for pickup by the transportation and disposal contractor for transport to the rail yard in Blasdell, New York. From there the intermodal containers will be loaded onto a train and transported to a properly permitted/licensed disposal facility in Michigan.

After the Corps of Engineers has addressed the FUSRAP-related materials within the landfill the Town of Tonawanda along with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will proceed with the final closing of the landfill and addressing any non FUSRAP-related contamination that may remain.



Tonawanda Landfill Aerial Photograph showing the Landfill Operable Unit and the Mudflats Operable Unit with the FUSRAP Investigative Area

What's Next

There will be a public information session regarding the cleanup on the evening of May 14, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. The information session will be held at the Niawanda Park Pavilion at 600 Niagara Street, Tonawanda, New York. The doors open for a poster session at 6:00 p.m. and the project presentation begins at 7:00 p.m. The poster session will include several poster stations that will describe the site setup, remediation activities, transportation routes and safety precautions that will be part of the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property cleanup. Several members of the Corps of Engineers team, and contractor personnel, will be available to answer questions and discuss the cleanup activities with you.

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) was initiated in 1974 to identify, investigate, and, if necessary, clean up or control sites throughout the United States contaminated by activities conducted as part of the nation's early atomic weapons and energy program. Congress transferred the administration and execution of FUSRAP from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1997. The Corps of Engineers implements FUSRAP in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, as amended, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 300.

Site Description and Site History

The Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property consists of two parcels owned by the Town of Tonawanda: the Town of Tonawanda Landfill and the mudflats area, now known as the North Youngmann Commerce Center. The

Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property covers approximately 170 acres in the Town of Tonawanda, Erie County, New York. The vicinity property is bordered by a residential area within the City of Tonawanda, a railroad line, Interstate 290, and East Park Drive. A National Grid utility corridor separates the landfill and mudflats area.

The Town of Tonawanda began disposing of waste at the landfill during the 1930s and continued doing so through 1989. Records indicate the Town principally used the landfill to dispose of construction and demolition material, yard waste, incinerator ash, and municipal waste.

As the result of a DOE radiological survey in 1991, a portion of the landfill and mudflats area, were designated in 1992 as a single FUSRAP vicinity property of the Linde Site, which is also located in the Town of Tonawanda.

In 2007, the Corps of Engineers divided the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property into two operable units (OUs): the Landfill OU and the Mudflats OU. The Corps of Engineers signed a record of decision for the Mudflats OU in September 2008, stating that no action is required for the Mudflats OU because the risks from FUSRAP-related material for all media were within the acceptable risk limits established in the NCP, for the current and reasonable future land use of the Mudflats OU.

After evaluation of the Landfill OU of the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property, the Corps of Engineers released a record of decision in 2017, which identified Targeted Shallow Removal and Off-Site Disposal of FUSRAP-Related Material as the selected remedy to address FUSRAP-contaminated soils in the Landfill OU. Implementing this remedy will involve excavating FUSRAP-related materials exceeding cleanup goals in the top five feet of the surface, transporting them off-site, and disposing of them at a permitted disposal facility. The selected remedy satisfies the CERCLA threshold criteria and provides the best balance of long-term effectiveness, short-term effectiveness, and cost, and has the highest implementability of the three considered alternatives.

Administrative Record

The administrative record file for the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property contains CERCLA-related documentation used in the decision-making process for the site. Reports and documents in the administrative record file may be viewed on the Tonawanda Landfill website at:

<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Tonawanda-Landfill/>

Also available at:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Buffalo District
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York 14207 (by appointment only)

The Corps of Engineers is committed to keeping you informed during the cleanup of Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property. For more information about the site, please email fusrap@usace.army.mil, visit: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Tonawanda-Landfill/> or call 800-833-6390 (Option 4).

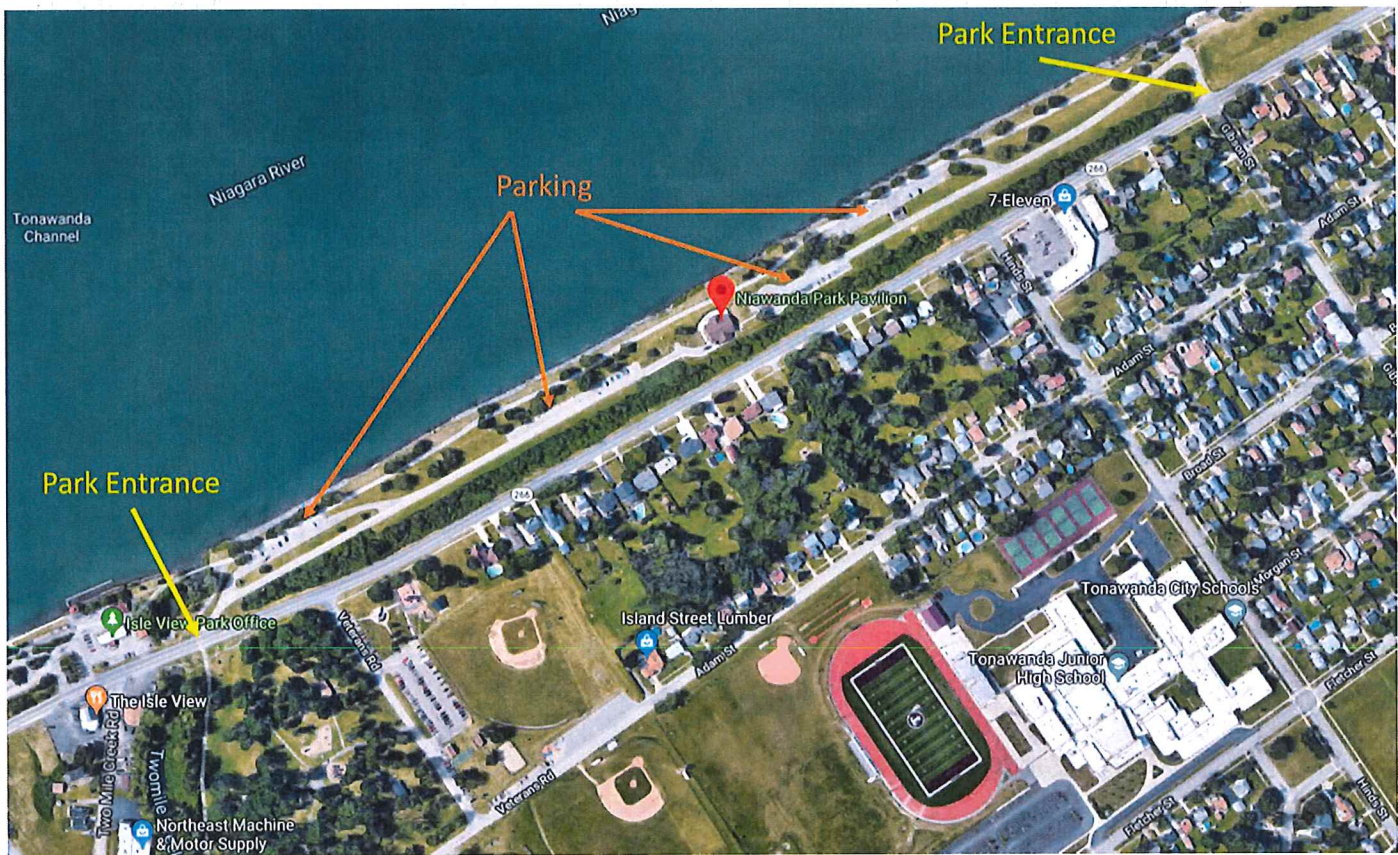
If you would like to receive Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property "News from the Corps" emails for regular updates on cleanup progress, please provide the Corps of Engineers with your email address.

Save the Date

Hello from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District:

Please save the date for a public information and poster session regarding the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property (TLVP) Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site cleanup on the evening of May 14, 2019, at 6:00pm. The information session will be held at the Niawanda Park Pavilion at 600 Niagara St, Tonawanda, NY 14150. See the picture below for park entrance and parking locations.

The doors open for poster discussion at 6:00pm and the presentation begins at 7:00pm. The poster session will include several poster stations that will describe the site setup, remediation activities, transportation routes and safety precautions that will be part of the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property Site cleanup. Several members of the Corps of Engineers TLVP team, as well as contractor personnel, will be available to answer questions and discuss the cleanup activities with you.



Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property Public Meeting Location with Entrances and Parking Highlighted

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – BUFFALO DISTRICT FUSRAP TEAM

1776 NIAGARA STREET, BUFFALO, N.Y. 14207

Phone: 800-833-6390 (Option 4)

Email: fusrap@usace.army.mil

Website: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Tonawanda-Landfill>